

Topic Group—How Much Growth?

October 3, 2000

Four citizens attended the topic group on growth. Of the attendees, two believed the county should plan for high growth, and one believed they should plan for medium growth. The fourth was undecided between the high and medium growth options. None of the citizens supported the low growth option. Notes from the discussion follow.

Attendees:

Rita Dietrich, Clark County Citizens United

E. F. Riemer, Citizen of River County

Jack Bremer, Citizen of Hockinson

Tom Armstrong

HIGH GROWTH

Pros	Cons
Need more growth	Might cause denser infill
Allows for developing more sewer and infrastructure capacity, don't have to retrofit	
We're at automatic overflow for huge metro area. We're not going backward	
Need infrastructure support for schools, neighborhood parks	
As we pursue development of business, more growth	

MEDIUM GROWTH

Pros	Cons
Could be the most realistic	Insufficient infrastructure caught doing catch up
Who pays for infrastructure of higher growth	

LOW GROWTH

Pros	Cons
Don't need light rail	People will come anyway
Don't need to expand schools	Stresses the family unit—by not providing enough opportunity for choice of where to live
Can downsize County government	

OTHER

- Plan neighborhood parks in new developments
- Look at plans and projections of economic development and builders' groups
- Don't want the growth to envelope all the rural area
- Don't allow growth to dictate where it happens –plan for it
- Predict as well as possible and plan for it